

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 OES-03 AGR-05 OIC-02 EB-07 COME-00

AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 L-02 H-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 STR-01 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 /115 W

----- 067008

R 071153Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9371

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, PFOR, SU, US

SUBJECT: FOOD SYMPOSIUM WRAP-UP

REF: STATE 025499; KHARTOUM 0304

BEGIN SUMMARY: KHARTOUM CONFERENCE PRODUCED FEW TANGIBLE RESULTS IN TERMS OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, BUT SUDAN DID GAIN SOME P.R. VALUE. SPEECHES SUBSEQUENT TO NIMEIRI'S (KHARTOUM REFTTEL) GENERALLY REHASHED POINTS MADE IN ROME. US PRIVATE CITIZENS ATTENDING FELT CONFERENCE ON BALANCE WORTHWHILE AS OPPORTUNITY BECOME FAMILIAR WITH SPECIFIC LDC SITUATION. USG APPARENTLY ONLY MAJOR WESTERN GOVERNMENT FOR WHICH INVITATIONS TO OFFICIALS WERE NOT PURSUED THROUGH EMBASSY CHANNELS. THIS NO DOUBT REFLECTS SUDANESE ASSESSMENT EXISTING STATE GOS/USG TIES. EVEN SO, REPRESENTATION OTHER COUNTRIES TENDED TO BE PRO FORMA AND NUMBER DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS LEFT BEFORE CONFERENCE WAS OVER. END SUMMARY.

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1. ACCORDING TO PARTICIPANTS, "FOOD FOR THE WORLD:

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF WORLD FOOD CRISIS" HELD FEBRUARY 1-5 IN KHARTOUM CONTRIBUTED LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE BEYOND THAT EMERGING FROM ROME CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER. SPEECHES WERE LARGELY GENERAL, NONCONTROVERSIAL (AFTER NIMEIRI'S - KHARTOUM 0304), AND DOMINATED BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION PARTICIPANTS (WHO "LIKE TO HEAR THEMSELVES TALK"). THERE NO OPPORTUNITY FOR STRUCTURED DISCUSSION IN SMALLER GROUPS WHICH MIGHT HAVE SHED LIGHT ON PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF SPECIFIC FOOD PRODUCTION STRATEGIES, AND SOME KEY DELEGATES (E.G. ROBERT GARDINER, ECA; PAUL T MARC-HENRY, OECD; MINISTER

ROBERT GALLEY, FRANCE, US AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS COUNCIL PRESIDENT) LEFT BEFORE END OF CONFERENCE. ONE CONFEREES FELT DISCUSSIONS OVERLY REPETITIVE OF ROME THEMES, WITH OPPORTUNITY MISSED TO GO BEYOND GENERALITIES TO A PARTICULAR CASE STUDY. CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN DR. MANSOUR KHALID, IN FINAL ADDRESS, FRANKLY ADMITTED LATTER WAS GOS'S MAIN OBJECTIVE BUT HE APPARENTLY FELT THEME HAD TO BE BROADENED TO ASSURE OPTIMUM "NAME" PARTICIPATION. NUMBER PARTICIPANTS CRITICAL LACK ADVANCE PREPARATION BY GOS WHICH LED TO DIFFUSE AND REPETITIVE PRESENTATIONS WHILE LIMITING VIGOROUS QUESTION-AND-ANSWER PERIODS.

2. SYMPOSIUM NEVERTHELESS WAS SUCCESSFUL IN ACQUAINTING VISITORS WITH SUDAN'S AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL, AS WELL AS OBSTACLES THERETO. ROMANIAN REP. PROF. MIRCEA MALITA (ADVISER TO PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU) PROPOSED LOCATING "INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR LAND RESOURCES" AS WAD MEDANI, CAPITAL OF GEZIRA PROVINCE. PARTICIPANTS HEARD NUMEROUS GOS SPEAKERS AND VISITED GEZIRA SCHEME FEB 4. MANY HAD SPECIFIC NON-ACADEMIC INTERESTS OF OWN, AND, LIKE ALL CONFERENCES, KHARTOUM OFFERED OPPORTUNITY GET SELLERS OF GOODS OR SERVICES TOGETHER WITH FINANCIERS AND SUDANESE END-USERS. KUWAIT FUND REP, FOR EXAMPLE, MADE NO BONES ABOUT FACT HE HAD "BILLIONS" LOOKING FOR BANKABLE PROJECTS, AND CHASE MANHATTAN REP TOLD EMBOFF HE COULD SPEND "WEEKS" JUST HEARING PEOPLE OUT ON PROJECT PROPOSALS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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3. INFO ON EXPANSION OF US FOOD AID PROGRAM (REFTEL) MOST TIMELY. IT WAS PASSED TO AMERICAN DELEGATES DURING FINAL MORNING SESSION WHO WERE THEN ABLE BRING FACTS TO ATTENTION SOME KEY DELEGATES. IN ADDITION, USIS PRESS RELEASE WAS ISSUED USING MATERIAL IN WIRELESS FILE. AMBASSADOR SENT COPIES LATTER DIRECTLY TO KEY MINISTERS. SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN

NO DISCERNIBLE SUDANESE REACTION.

4. SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM AND LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
BEING POUCHED FEB 8. FROM SOUNDINGS
AMONG DIPLOMATIC CORPS WE HAVE IMPRESSION MOST
PARTICIPATING STATES WERE ACTIVELY ENCOURAGED BY GOS TO BE
REPRESENTED AT GOVERNMENT LEVEL, WHILE USG OF COURSE WAS NOT.
HOWEVER, ABSENCE OFFICIAL US DELEGATION MITIGATED BY SMALLNESS
ALL SUCH GROUPS AND FACT PRIVATE AMERICAN CONFEREES REPRESENTED
LARGEST SINGLE NATIONAL GROUP. INTERESTINGLY, NO EE COUNTRIES
(EXCEPT ROMANIA, WHICH PLAYED ACTIVE ROLE, INTER ALIA,
BY SUMMARIZING SYMPOSIUM RESULTS) AND ONLY INDIA AND PAKISTAN
OF EAST AND SOUTH ASIA WERE ON LIST OF PARTICIPANTS.
BREWER

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